



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
LT. GOVERNOR

SUZANNE M. BUMP  
SECRETARY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Linnea Walsh  
617-626-7111

**PATRICK APPOINTS ATTORNEY MICHAEL BYRNES OF  
MELROSE AS CHAIR OF LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**BOSTON—August 28, 2007**—Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Suzanne M. Bump today announced that Michael A. Byrnes of Melrose, an experienced labor attorney who has worked both in government and in private practice, has been appointed by Governor Deval Patrick as Chairman of the state Labor Relations Commission (LRC) effective August 27.

"I am pleased to appoint Michael Byrnes to this important post," said Patrick. "Through his experience, he sees the merits of cases relating to the public employee collective bargaining law from both the labor and management side," said Governor Patrick. "I am confident he will work hard to improve the commission's capacity to better serve the Commonwealth's taxpayers."

Secretary Bump said, "Earlier this year, this executive office released a report which detailed the problems plaguing the LRC, including its 600-case backlog. Michael Byrnes is committed to reducing the outstanding case backlog and to increasing the efficiency and accountability of the LRC. At the end of the day, he recognizes that people deserve nothing less than swift and fair resolution of their grievances."

Byrnes received a Bachelor's degree from Harvard University in 1991 and received his law degree in 1996 from the Northeastern University School of Law. He has served at the law firm of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehan in Quincy and later as labor relations representative at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and then counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Corrections.

**--MORE--**

Most recently, he served as business agent for the National Conference of Firemen & Oilers, Local 3, SEIU and was responsible for the day-to-day operations of that union's approximately 1,300 members, handling contract negotiations, disciplinary hearings and grievances and arbitrations.

Byrnes said, "I want to thank Governor Patrick, Secretary Bump and Director Noel for their confidence in me. I look forward to this challenge and to taking action to ensure the LRC can operate at a pace akin to business in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and not as a bureaucracy beholden to the past."

###